

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the application is requested.

Claims 17-19 have been rejected. Claims 1-16 and 20-33 have been allowed. A conforming amendment for claim 17 is now offered. Thus, Claims 1-33 remain pending in the application.

Applicant appreciatively acknowledges the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-16 and 20-33, as well as the Examiner's withdrawal of the rejections of claims 1-3, 6-11, and 14-16 under §102(b) and of claims 4, 5, 12, and 13 under §103(a).

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 101

In "Claim Rejections – 35 USC § 101," item 6 on page 2 of the above-identified Office Action, claims 17-19 have been rejected as being directed to non-statutory subject matter. In response, Applicant offers an amendment to claim 17, which Applicant believes directs claim 17 to statutory subject matter, overcoming the Examiner's rejection. Claims 18-19 depend on claim 17, and thus incorporate the offered amendment. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the offered amendment, and allow claims 17-19.

Allowable Subject Matter

The remaining claims, claims 1-16 and 20-33, have been allowed by the Examiner in the final Office Action dated February 23, 2006. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

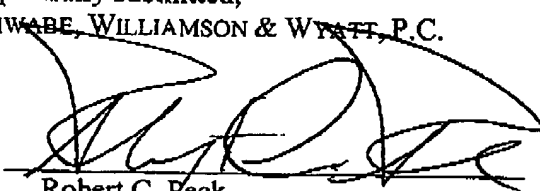
Conclusion

Applicant submits that claims 1-33 are in condition for allowance, and appreciatively acknowledges the Examiner's allowance of claims 1-16 and 20-33. Accordingly, a Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested. If the Examiner has any questions concerning the present paper, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at (206) 407-1513. If any fees are due in connection with filing this paper, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the Deposit Account of Schwabe, Williamson and Wyatt, P.C., No. 50-0393.

Respectfully submitted,
SCHWABE, WILLIAMSON & WYATT, P.C.

Date: March 22, 2006

by:


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Application No. 09/803,178
Confirmation No. 4745

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Attorney Docket No. 109870-130110
IPG No. P101

SEA/109870/130110/RPE/350826.1